

6 January 2014

UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Regulators start generic design assessment on new nuclear reactor

The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the Environment Agency have begun assessing Hitachi-GE Nuclear Energy's UK Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (UK ABWR). This follows successful completion of the preparatory step of the regulators' Generic Design Assessment (GDA) process.

In January 2013, the regulators received a request from the Minister of State for Energy to undertake GDA of a new nuclear reactor design in the UK, Hitachi-GE's UK ABWR. Horizon Nuclear Power Ltd plan to use the UK ABWR at their two sites, Wylfa (Anglesey) and Oldbury (in South Gloucestershire).

In Wales, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) will administer GDA. Whilst ONR and the Environment Agency will undertake the technical assessments, the outputs of GDA will be used by NRW to help underpin assessments of any potential environmental permit applications for Wylfa Newydd.

ONR and the Environment Agency have been working with Hitachi-GE to help ensure the company understands the UK regulatory system and the regulators' expectations. The regulators have also been increasing their knowledge of Hitachi-GE's proposals.

The regulators consider that they should now begin their assessments and that there are adequate project management, technical and legal provisions in place.

The regulators' joint [GDA website](#) has been updated to reflect that Step 2 has begun and it includes links to Hitachi-GE's website and its comments process. Hitachi-GE's comments process enables anyone to submit comments and questions to the company for their response.

Subject to the company submitting acceptable proposals to the regulators, indicatively GDA is expected to take four years to complete from now.

We are writing to you because in addition to Wylfa and Oldbury, any developer may propose to build this reactor design at any of the sites included in the Government's Nuclear National Policy Statement (listed in the next paragraph). EDF has however announced its proposals to build EDF / AREVA's UK EPR reactor design at Hinkley Point in Somerset and Sizewell in Suffolk.

The sites listed as potentially suitable are: Bradwell (Essex), Hartlepool (Durham), Heysham (Lancashire), Hinkley Point (Somerset), Oldbury (South Gloucestershire), Sellafield (Cumbria), Sizewell (Suffolk) and Wylfa (Anglesey).

We are informing you because:

- we think you might be interested in the regulation of new nuclear power stations;
- you may live or work in an area where this design may potentially be proposed by a developer;
- we would like you to please share this information with others who may be interested or who you represent.

Generic Design Assessment (GDA)

GDA allows the regulators to begin assessing the safety, security, environmental and waste implications of the new reactor design prior to site-specific proposals being brought forward.

Together ONR and the Environment Agency are ensuring that any new nuclear power stations will meet high standards of safety, security, environmental protection and waste management.

We've updated guidance at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/ngn03.pdf>

Getting involved

1. You can submit a question or make a comment about the UK ABWR using Hitachi-GE's comments process at www.hitachi-hgne-uk-abwr.co.uk. Your question will be answered by Hitachi-GE. Your question and Hitachi-GE's response will be seen by the regulators and used to help inform their assessments.
2. A GDA public and stakeholder engagement plan setting out our draft proposals for engagement will be published during the winter 2013/14. We'd welcome your feedback.
3. The Environment Agency will consult on its detailed assessment findings in 2016.

Next steps

We will keep you informed at key points in the process. You might also like to subscribe to our joint regulators' ebulletin so that you automatically receive quarterly reports (see link in the next section).

If you do not wish to receive further information about GDA of the UK ABWR then please let us know using the contact information below. Thank you.

Further information

- Register for our ebulletin at www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/ebulletin.htm
- View our new reactors website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/index.htm>

How to contact us

- Write to us at: gda@environment-agency.gov.uk
- Phone the Environment Agency general enquiries line: 03708 506 506

(Telephone from outside the UK: 00 44 1709 389 201)

(Mon to Fri, 8am to 6pm)

Minicom service, for the hard of hearing: 03702 422 549 National Customer Contact Centre

Details of [call charges](#) can be found on the [GOV.UK](#) website
We hope you find this useful.

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Environment Agency